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Title:Need to give the status of Special Category to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI MEKAPATI RAJA MOHAN REDDY (NELLORE): Madam Speaker, at the time of bifurcation of the State of Andhra Pradesh, a promise was made on the floor of the Rajya Sabha by the then Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singhji that a Special Category Status would be given to the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh. At that time, the principal Opposition Party, BJP, not only supported that suggestion but they also demanded the Special Category Status for 10 years. Not only that, Madam, BJP leaders went on telling us: "Definitely, we are coming to power. Once we come to power, we will give the Status of Special Category to Andhra Pradesh for 10 years." Now, they have come to power but they are not able to give special status to Andhra Pradesh for the last one year.

Madam, the State of Andhra Pradesh has been divided very unscientifically without addressing the problems that would arise after the bifurcation of the State in the both the States that is in the State of Telangana and in Andhra Pradesh.

Unfortunately, the special status category was not stipulated in the Bill. The people of Andhra Pradesh are eagerly waiting. The special category status should be given to the State. Then only, the State could develop and able to come out of the financial problems. Now, the main national parties both Congress and BJP have given their word on the floor of the Rajya Sabha and it is not proper to go back on that word. Actually, the State of Andhra Pradesh is facing financial crisis. The financial deficit is around Rs. 16,000 crore. The State has to develop the Capital and many more things have to be done in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Once Andhra was the most progressive State and now it has become the most backward State. So, I would request the Government of India to keep up the promises and to have the sanctity and to preserve the democratic values of Parliament. They should keep up their word and should declare the special status category for ten years.

I urge upon the Government of India to declare it immediately. There is a lot of resentment in the people of Andhra Pradesh. I earnestly request the Government of India to declare it immediately.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Thank you Madam for giving us the opportunity to speak on this subject.

Madam, as hon. Member Mr. Reddy pointed out that it has been a year now since the Government is in power, we have been meeting the Home Minister, we have been meeting the Finance Minister and we have met the Prime Minister also on this subject.

One thing that this House needs to recognize is that the issue of this bifurcation is only one year old but the crisis in our State has been going on for more than a decade. The issue of bifurcation whether it should happen or not for almost ten years, the entire State was disrupted and now if we have to rebuild a State from scratch with deficit budget, we need clarity. We need to know what we are going to get. We need to know when we are going to get and we need to know how we are going to get it. If you are not able to provide that today itself, please let us know when we are going to get these concessions which both parties Congress and BJP has promised. We asked for clarity. Please provide us with clarity.

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